

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Posts of Hindi Officers etc. in Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

224. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/ Assistants created in the Ministry and allied PSUs/attached and subordinate offices for propagation of Hindi as official language and encouragement of correspondence in Hindi;

(b) the number of such posts lying vacant since when; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to fill up such posts urgently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected.

Production cost of urea in private sector

†225. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing cost of urea in private sector and the reasons for the high cost;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the production cost of urea; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Under Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme, the retention prices (cost of production plus 12% post tax return) are fixed unit-wise having regard to a combination of norms and actuals of various cost elements. Operational cost of production of urea units differs not only from unit to unit but also from month to month, depending upon, *inter-alia*, the health and vintage of the plant, the feedstock used, the level of capacity utilization, specific consumption and inputs cost. Such computation is not related to the unit being in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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private or in cooperative/public sector. However, the weighted average retention price of urea units in private sector is Rs. 9764 per MT as compared to that of Rs. 8166 per MT in respect of all urea units, as on 1.4.2000.

The main reasons for high cost of production in private sector are two-fold. Firstly, of the 12 ureas producing units in private sector, 7 are naphtha based units whose cost of production is higher than the all-unit average on account of high cost of feed stock i.e. naphtha. Secondly, the remaining 5 units are gas based but have been commissioned after 1991 except Indo-Gulf Corporation, Jagdishpur and thereby have comparatively higher capital related charges.

(b) and (c) Installation of energy saving measures such as Purge Gas Recovery (PGR) unit etc. and promoting technological improvement for improving energy efficiency in urea units are some of the measures taken by the Government towards reducing the retention price of urea units.

Revival of IDPL, Muzaffarpur

†226. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to re-operate/revive IDPL in Muzaffarpur in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The unit in Muzaffarpur, namely, Bihar Drugs & Organic Chemicals Ltd. (BDOCL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of IDPL. IDPL is a sick company under reference to the BIFR. The future of the unit at Muzaffarpur is linked with the revival and future of IDPL which would be determined by the proceedings and the final decision of the BIFR.

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